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28 June 1982

LATIN AMERICA REPORT

No. 2529

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PROCESSING OF HEAVY CRUDE OIL EXAMINED

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 21 May 82 pp 90-91

[Article by Bernardo Ciokler]

[Text] The problem of processing low-quality crude oil, pitch, light oil residues, asphaltic sand, etc., is a basic question for the oil refining and petrochemical industry today.

In spite of the complexity and high investment costs, the present level of science and technology makes it possible to solve these problems effectively enough.

During this past decade and as a result of advanced geological explorations, it has been determined that heavy crude oil reserves double conventional crude oil reserves. Our small country with scant energy resources hopes to maintain stable production of these heavy crude oils that have a high pollutant content and whose refining by the usual methods is difficult.

Developed and developing countries are interested in discovering the most appropriate ways of processing these crude oils economically. However, this question has special importance for a country like ours that has scant energy resources.

During the last 15 years, some developed countries have carried out extensive studies and research on blending the residues of processed crude oil in order to obtain a greater quantity of fuels and lubricants.

Nevertheless, this research now covers not only oil residues but also a wide range of heavy crude oils discovered in the last 10 years. This has meant that the objectives of the use of these crude oils have gradually changed.

Originally the main objective was to improve some specifications of these residues (S content and viscosity) in order to subsequently use them as heavy fuel oil.

Today, due to the considerable reduction in the demand for fuel oil and the opposite trend toward light oils and medium distillates (kerosene and diesel), there is greater emphasis on the conversion of residues and heavy crude oils.

Types of Processing

In general, the research done by different firms shows that there are three types of processing to achieve high yields from residues and heavy crude oils:

Thermal processes;

Catalytic processes (with or without hydrogen); and

Processes of physical separation.

Although each of these techniques has a number of specific merits, they do not provide a satisfactory solution for the majority of the refiners who are involved in changes in the distribution of products, the demand for high-quality distillates and, at the same time, finding a stable economic criterion before making new investments.

In the case of national crude oils, there is a noticeable difference between their composition and commercial crude oils refined in our country and abroad. Even if we compare them with other heavy crude oils, the characteristics of national crude oils differ greatly because of their high pollutant content.

The most undesirable pollutants which are found in appreciable quantities in our crude oil can be separated into three groups:

1. Asphaltic hydrocarbons (asphaltenes);
2. Sulfurous combinations; and
3. Metal content (nickel and vanadium).

Asphaltenes: They are aromatic hydrocarbons with a high molecular weight found in colloidal suspension in crude oil and each particle (micelle) is between 40 and 50 degrees. These large molecules blend easily in the formation of coke when they are subjected to high temperatures.

Sulfurous combinations: Sulfurous compounds are present to a greater or lesser degree in all crude oils. In the specific case of our crude oils, the sulfur content reaches 8 percent, one of the highest that crude oil can possess to our knowledge.

Metal content (nickel and vanadium): This is low compared with the pollutants explained above. However, they are present and with the sulfur and the asphaltenes make processing very complex from all standpoints.

Therefore, it is necessary to make an in-depth study on the best technological process to refine these types of crude oil. It should be pointed out that there is little or no information about processing these crude oils in international literature. Therefore, our CIQ [Chemical Research Center] included, as a basic part of its program, the study, characterization and most economical technological way to process our national crude oils.

Some Considerations

However, we would like to reflect on some considerations related to the processing of these crude oils after studying the specialized literature that we have been able to obtain.

The thermal processes (cracking, delayed and fluid coking) do not completely change the carbon-hydrogen ratio in the raw material and product of conversion. Therefore, heavy residues, concentration of more carbonaceous material than in the raw material and even coke are produced.

Also the light parts resulting from the conversion do not meet the specifications for commercial products so it will be necessary to apply these hydrogenating processes to them in order to improve the quality of the fuel obtained.

In general, these processes are especially used for heavy residues and the investment is generally moderate.

The use of catalytic processes for blending crude oils is a new problem in refining; however, their use is conditioned by the presence of metals and asphaltenes. These pollutants dramatically affect the investment through greater consumption of the catalyst and hydrogen (for the hydrogenating process). Therefore, if a high level of conversion is required, a certain catalytic process that has the following products as raw materials might be economically profitable:

Distillates from the vacuum towers;

Residues with low metal and asphaltene content; and

Extracts from deasphaltization.

At present, the possibility of processing heavy crude oils and two-stage hydroprocessing installations is being studied. In the first, the crude oil is stripped of most of the pollutants and in the second they are converted.

Different from the thermal processes, the products obtained from the catalytic processes are of high quality and can be marketed without subsequent processing. This is basically due to the fact that the carbon-hydrogen ratio increases in the products obtained compared to the raw material.

An important variant of physical separation for processing our heavy crude oils is deasphaltization with solvent. The asphalts and metals are eliminated and become components of the asphalt, producing an extract with a low pollutant content that can be used as raw material for a catalytic process.

The most important factor in this process is the type of solvent used. The appropriate solvent should increase the yield of the extract two to three times. Nevertheless, so far the yield in asphalt fluctuates between 40 and 60 percent in known international practice. This is one of the negative aspects of this process; also the asphalt obtained is of low quality.

Plans for the 5-Year Period

At this time, this process has been given priority within the line of research for the 5-year period since it represents an inexpensive investment and quick construction.

Also the application of a catalytic process for deasphaltized products has been considered with a pilot laboratory plant where tests simulating the process of two-stage hydrocracking will be done. A high conversion aimed at light and medium distillates that meet established commercial requirements could be achieved.

From this analysis it can be seen that to obtain the most acceptable possible conversion level from a heavy crude oil, it is necessary to apply a combination of these processes in order to ensure a flexible, reliable and--most important--economic operation.

Lastly, we wanted to point out that the processing of Cuban crude oils by some of the technological ways discussed above would mean a savings of about 50 million pesos per year from crude oil that would no longer be imported and also products that would be obtained.

This savings would pay for any technology that is applied in a year.

Therefore, the resolution of this problem is in the hands of the CIQ researchers who must solve this problem during this 5-year period.

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CSO: 3010/1686

BRIEFS

PERUVIAN DELEGATION IN CUBA--Peruvian deputy commerce minister (Maria de Jesus Hume Hurtado) has arrived in Havana heading a trade delegation from her country. The deputy minister and her delegation were received at the airport in Rancho Boyeros by foreign trade vice minister Amadeo Blanco and Foreign Trade Ministry director Arnold Rodriguez as well as other Cuban foreign trade officials. Peruvian businessmen belonging to the Exporters Association, the Peruvian Construction Guild, the National Fisheries Society and the Industrial Association's Textile Committee are members of the delegation. The visit will contribute to the common goal of developing trade between the two countries. The deputy minister and her delegation visited an exhibit of Cuban exports at the Habana Libre Hotel as part of their agenda. [Text] [FL161637 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1600 GMT 16 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1713

'LA NACION' FINDS COSTA MENDEZ' NAM SPEECH DISQUIETING

Buenos Aires LA NACION in Spanish 8 Jun 82 p 6

[Editorial: "Argentina's International Role"]

[Text] We are witnessing a realignment of our foreign relations, and this is taking place at a time when both the nations of the West and the nations subject to Soviet strategy are going through a process of change with respect to their concerted interests.

Mistakes by the nations with the greatest worldwide responsibilities are a major factor in this process. Reagan is pushing China towards a reconciliation with the USSR, and he is doing so with the same misplaced enthusiasm with which he has pushed the anticommunist nations of Latin America to draw closer to the governments influenced by the Soviets. In turn, the Kremlin is committing the folly of wanting to "Sovietize" every instance of displeasure with the United States (a dissident Sandinist leader has just pointed this out in Nicaragua) and is endeavoring to resurrect, as in Poland or Afghanistan, in Leninist terms the former imperial designs of the most ambitious czars. But the fact is that both the USSR and the United States (as well as Europe, which as such has not found the right spot to recover the cohesive significance that it had up to 1914) are moving spasmodically on a planet whose crisis is an effect of the ongoing change.

It is precisely because there is striking evidence of accelerated change that we attach prime importance to a consideration of Argentina's positions in a changing world.

The starting point for this much-needed analysis is the line that we can infer from the ideas set forth in Havana by Dr Costa Mendez. Doubtless because he had to reflect the dissatisfactions weighing on the Military Junta in a time of war, he was unable to express there the accurate comprehensive view that we have welcomed on other occasions.

The speech delivered by the Argentine foreign minister at the ministerial meeting of the Bureau of the Movement of Nonaligned Countries contained remarks that should persuade us to assess it cautiously and sincerely. If our first move is to place his remarks in the context of the international situation, we should keep this background information in mind:

1. It is true that Great Britain's colonialist response, with the military and political assistance of the United States and the qualified diplomatic and economic backing of its European allies, has weakened the bonds that Argentina ambiguously felt connected its destiny with the strategic camp put together by the United States and the major Old World powers. In other words, there has been a change here.

2. It is true that Latin American solidarity has opened up much broader channels for active Argentine communication and integration with the region than existed before 2 April. Thus, there has been a change here too.

3. The Nonaligned Movement has just spoken through its mouthpiece Fidel Castro, who feels so closely aligned with the USSR that he has been its military proxy in Africa. Moreover, he is doing the Soviets' bidding by supporting guerrilla war in Central America today, just as he supported the guerrillas that Argentina's Armed Forces took up arms against in the past. There have been no major changes either in Cuba's commitments or in the practical stands of the Nonaligned Movement, where the Qadhafis and Arafats of the world, who are so closely linked to the terrorism of which we have been victims, are held in high esteem.

Logic would indicate that Argentina should reorient its foreign policy in accordance with the changes in stands that we can see as a result of the struggle for the Malvinas. What is not so obvious, however, is how it will be able to shift its position in the Nonaligned Movement without altering the movement's existing arrangement.

Argentina's virtual acceptance of a course that runs counter to its idiosyncrasy entails very grave risks. It would seem that the initial price we are being forced to pay is identifying other people's enemies as our own. Thus, in his speech in Havana Dr Costa Mendez asserted that Great Britain, the United States and South Africa are determined to install a joint base on the Malvinas. So far there has been absolutely no indication of South African involvement, and the Pretoria government has even publicly denied it. For this very reason his comment sounds like an unacceptable concession. Furthermore, the allusion to the critical situation in the Mideast suggests that in order to make the pro-Arab audience more receptive, our foreign minister has made the mistake of overlooking Israel's firm compliance with its contracts to provide Argentina with weapons, so as to charm the ears of a group of oil-producing countries. The Arab countries could resolve the problem of a Palestinian State by simply deciding to establish one in Jordan, which is well-suited to the purpose. A strange member of the Arab world, Jordan understands the United Kingdom better than it does Argentina in our current struggle, as we can gather from its vote in the Security Council.

The choice being offered our nation today is not to exchange its accustomed European-oriented outlook to advance the cause of countries that band together to give impassioned voice to national immaturity, weakness in defense or subordination to objectives decided on from the outside. Some nations are motivated by all three reasons.

This is a false alternative. Only those who fear that the only other option is isolation could suffer from such dualistic confusion. The fact is that the ability to face up to the trials of change is to be found in the creativity of politicians, who must not allow themselves to be boxed in by restrictions that have proven to be ineffective in international dealings.

Lest we drift towards the vacuum of isolation, Argentina need only take cognizance of its identity and modern origins. Europeans keep charging that we are different from them. They are right. From Rousseau's France we took the doctrinal substance of political independence, just as from 1862 on we applied France's experience in the organization of our system of education. From Spain we inherited not only a beautiful language but also our national character, with a stamp so deep that even in the struggle against the Crown we never stopped calling Spain the mother country, just as Brazil has always referred to Portugal. From Italy we received the hardworking spirit that transformed these lands from a desert into a brotherly haven for men of good will who wanted to come and work under a federative, egalitarian constitution. Thus, our country opened itself up to a wide range of nationalities and to the essences of a wide range of cultures. But if we are different, as the Europeans recognize, it is because while our country is descended from colonizers and immigrants, the physical and spiritual contact with the posterity of ancient South American civilizations has led to the emergence of a quite distinct national character. Furthermore, over time a series of related regional interests have developed, strengthening our bonds of language and of our common struggle for independence.

We do not have to resort to a weak-willed, fleeting strategy to find our place in the contemporary world. We need only remain on the course charted by the culture to which we owe our identity. Therefore, instead of being frightened by the extortionary prospect of isolation, we ought to genuinely and effectively assert our status as members of the Latin American community in today's world.

The Latin nations of Europe and the nations of Latin America can play a prominent role in our crisis-ridden world if they display courage and determination. Even to today's vacillating France, disturbed by nostalgia for its African colonies, the legacy of its Latin past is more promising than ties with those who enjoy calling it decadent. Let us bear in mind that Western values (man conceived a person, in the first place) exerted historical influence to the extent that Latin civilization perfected the philosophical and religious patterns developed during previous stages of the cultural chain.

Argentina thus has the chance to give renewed momentum to the timeless elements of a culture shared by many nations, so that our ties yield more than ill will and frustration. What Latin American nations have in common with the European nations from which they sprang is a more important legacy, viewed in light of the future, than what could derive from fragile, heterogeneous associations.

Pledging our efforts and creativity to this undertaking is a worthwhile decision. Let us do so without dreaming about the idle vanity of leadership. Nations become leaders when this status is accorded them by other nations that have found their path by accumulating experience and sharing goals.

PAPER URGES NEW, PRAGMATIC REORIENTATION OF FOREIGN POLICY

Bahia Blanca LA NUEVA PROVINCIA in Spanish 22 May 82 p 2

[Text] In Light of Imminent Developments

We are without question living especially tense moments in light of yesterday's attacks and confrontations, which point to a more than likely all-out, formal and definitive armed conflict on the Falkland Islands front. Nonetheless, the country must begin working now on its future foreign policy, based on new and specific guidelines to be developed in light of its experiences as of 2 April.

That Argentina must begin patching up its tattered relations with the United States is beyond any question. Regardless of the feelings of ill will, surprise or disappointment that we might harbor towards our "brothers to the north," someone in the country will have to decide to do so, because for better or worse the United States is one of the superpowers and its presence, might and influence are great enough as to be unavoidable. We will have to do so, but obviously while making the most of the lesson we have learned.

If realism is the quintessence of policy, this applies all the more to a country's foreign policy. San Martin Palace should incorporate a large dose of pragmatism into its policies, and the sooner the better. International relations do not admit any form of naivete, and an intelligent and legitimate foreign strategy should aim at safeguarding national interests before all else. The other requirements in this sphere are subsidiary, secondary and, therefore, expendable.

So far our government seems to have acted with the proper flexibility, by neither smothering itself in any ideological compartment nor clinging to any sort of loyalty. Now that developments have pushed the country to the brink of an open war with Great Britain (possibly ushering in a Third World War, according to some observers) and in light of the abrogation of the Inter-American Reciprocal Assistance Treaty and the breakdown of the continental system of solidarity, we call on the country to remain outside any blocs or subblocs that might restrict its maneuvering room. The primary practical freedom of national sovereignty is to be able to choose one's allies. The exercise of this fundamental political right involves exclusively national decisionmaking. otherwise, a country becomes a more or less disguised dependent or satellite.

Argentina and Argentines now know what they can expect from the United States and, in general, from the "West." In a recent speech Admiral Anaya strongly stressed that our country is part of the bloc that somewhat anachronistically continues to be called the West. Concurrent statements by our ambassador in Washington confirm that our government seems to have agreed to remain if not beside the United States (which for the moment is impossible), at least not too far away. This stand has averted the danger of Soviet presence in the South Atlantic. We have thus resisted the temptation of Soviet support in our battle with the United Kingdom. Argentina has obviously yielded here in the complicated military and diplomatic maneuvering in which it is locked not so much with London as with Washington.

In any event, when the time to make decisions came, our foreign policy-makers clearly must have assessed at length the risks involved in any sort of alliance with the Soviet Union, because the dangers are obviously enormous.

But whether we seek a rapprochement with or further distance from one or the other end of the international spectrum, our diplomacy ought to be governed by a pragmatic, case-by-case approach that does not cause us to confuse partners with allies nor allies with friends. In order to negotiate, a country must first of all know where it can compromise and then to what extent. This kind of conviction is the key to and a condition for diplomatic success (This is why Argentina knows that it cannot even begin discussing sovereignty over the islands).

In order to rebuild our ties with the United States, we will have to make several de facto and doctrinal assumptions (to put a label on them). One is that the West is more than the United States. Another is that the West must be reorganized "in accordance with new guidelines," as Admiral Anaya suggested. Thirdly and above all, Argentina alone will not be able to successfully confront communist influence or American disloyalty. Both Argentina and Latin America will have to keep an eye on both dangers and act in accordance with the conviction that the East-West conflict as Washington portrays it is often divorced from their interests and needs.

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CSO: 3010/1696

ROJAS FAULTS U.S. ROLE IN FALKLANDS WAR

PY161849 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1920 GMT 15 Jun 82

[Text] Buenos Aires, 15 Jun (NA)--Adm Isaac Rojas, a former vice president of the country, today said that "the cease-fire in the South Atlantic may imply having lost a battle, but not the war, which will continue through all possible means, until the incorporation of these islands into the national patrimony becomes a real fact."

Rojas noted that "if the cease-fire implies the withdrawal of the British and Argentine troops, I believe that major progress will have been made in the cause of peace, which can only be based on justice, truth and good faith."

"These virtues--justice, truth and faith--have been violated by Great Britain up to now because it has completely ignored the numerous amount of UN resolutions," Rojas said.

Rojas also stated: "Unfortunately, in this dramatic emergency the U.S. Government has abandoned its worldwide and Americanist role of defending justice to immorally and disloyally turn into an accomplice of Great Britain."

Rojas added: "Fortunately, the majority of the Latin American countries support our position, as well as other countries of the continent."

Rojas then recounted the British position since the first British invasion and noted: "We have been at war with the British for the last 176 years." He warned that "we must not confuse things, the British did not colonize the islands, but they stole them because they have never respected our rights nor the international treaties that were signed under the UN."

"It is a serious mistake asserting that Great Britain colonized the Malvinas, because the truth is that it robbed them from us. Had it colonized them, it would have developed culture there and now it would not consider the kelpers second-class citizens and the Latin Americans (?dagoes)."

CSO: 3010/1699

FARMERS DEMAND POLITICAL, ECONOMIC CHANGES

PY161737 Buenos Aires HERALD in English 16 Jun 82 p 9

[Text] (NA)--Three representatives of Argentine farming sectors yesterday expressed their views on the current situation to the NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS News Agency.

Humberto Volado, president of the Argentine Agrarian Federation, said "those responsible for this defeat must immediately leave the government." Raul Romero Feris, president of the Argentine Rural Confederations, was of the opinion that "the country should take the road to national reconstruction." Orlando Gilardoni, head of CONINAGRO, another farming entity, said people should be thinking of "a new model for the country."

Volando said the latest events in the Malvinas were the final stage of a number of failures in the economic, social, political and cultural fields, all of which caused the country to lose prestige throughout the world.

"Those responsible for this defeat must immediately leave the government, and give way to a change, which at this stage, no Argentine can doubt is needed," Volando added.

Romero Feris pointed out that whatever the results of the recent fighting, Argentina will have to continue to maintain its position concerning its claim to the islands.

"What has happened must be taken as a lesson. If this has made us achieve national unity, today more than ever must this unity be maintained above all sectorial interests," Feris said.

He also said that it was time to reaffirm the economic sovereignty which had been for so long delayed. Volando believed steps should be taken to achieve not only economic, but social and political integration.

Romero Feris called upon all sectors to defend one objective. This was the consolidation of the nation, the consolidation of peace, and an end to events which prevented the reconstruction of the nation.

Gilardoni expressed his anxiety at what had occurred in the recent past. "We value what our soldiers have done in the south to recover the Malvinas Islands and regret fortune did not accompany them," he said. He also said Argentina was now facing a difficult time which would become more so as time went on.

Finally Gilardoni said that there would have to be a complete change in the country's political economy, as that pursued during the last few years had been disastrous.

CSO: 3020/136

SPIRIT OF UNITY TO PREVAIL AT END OF CONFLICT

Buenos Aires MERCADO in Spanish 20 May 82 pp 1-2

[Text] Politics

There has been frequent talk these days of "postwar" Argentina. How different will the country be from what it was on 2 April, when it set out to reconquer the Malvinas? To what extent and in what direction will the war experience affect it? The term "postwar," which is appealing in that it indicates a totally new period, open to an as yet undeciphered panorama of trends and developments, is, however, debatable. First of all, it diverts energy from the "war," which is what we are faced with today. To set our sights on the postwar period in the midst of major fighting and pressures is, if done to excess, to flee the reality around us. Instead, we have to concentrate on the war, among other reasons because its outcome will be decisive in defining the postwar period. Moreover, it is also debatable whether we ought to think of the postwar period as necessarily "different" from the present. "Prewar" Argentina will surely not return. We all agree on that. But this does not necessarily mean that postwar Argentina is going to be different from today's wartime Argentina. In this regard, the country has obviously undergone sweeping changes in moving from prewar to war. One reasonable theory is that the postwar period will consolidate these changes, not replace them with a series of others. According to this line of thought, we do not need all that much imagination to envision the postwar period: It will be the continuation, the formalization of the sweeping changes that are taking place now, in wartime. These changes could be summarized in a single word: convergence. Prewar Argentina was characterized by the unquestionably clear-cut division between the ruling military, with its liberal advisers, and the populist parties and unions. All indications are that liberalism is losing strength quickly, not only because of economic difficulties proper but also due to two other, even more powerful factors: the unavoidable loss of support for the Anglo-Saxon powers, on whose example the liberal economic model was based, and the political harmony that now prevails among the military, Radicals and Peronists with regard to the struggle for the Malvinas. It is hard to imagine that this harmony will evaporate the day after a cease-fire. On the contrary, the state of "concentration" that the country is experiencing politically will likely translate into a longer-range compromise between the major parties and the military once the

pressures of the war subside. The liberal faction would not be cast into the opposition, however. On the contrary, it is not unthinkable that it could be included as another element in a very broad political front, without however dominating government decisionmaking. One by one the liberal goals have had to be abandoned. Exchange restrictions, import restrictions and suspension of the privatization program are several examples of a backtracking process that, spurred on by the circumstances, makes it hard to imagine that in the much-talked-about "postwar" period the country could purely and simply return to the principles that were in force on 1 April. Thus, a strategic debate has now begun among the leaders of economic liberalism. One hard-line faction feels that either the liberal economic program should be pursued head-on, comprehensively or it should not be pursued at all. Another faction, more open to compromise, assumes that it is preferable to come to terms with the new political coalition that will dominate the country henceforth, by offering it at least the positive elements of a free-market economy that can be salvaged, without pushing for its patently impossible reestablishment. If the liberals chart a strategy of compromise, not breakup, they will still have a few cards to play. For the moment, they have major figures in government who represent a guarantee to the international banking and business community. This is a major political asset. They can also offer the technical know-how that other groups do not possess to an equal extent. In short, they could defend a whole series of "carryovers" from the 1976-1982 liberal period that would otherwise be swept away by a statist administration. The state of "concentration of wills" in which Argentina finds itself in wartime is, in any event, the central political factor for postwar Argentina. It will not be overlooked. From it could emerge a government that the various segments of society would look on much more favorably. Such a government could develop a consensus short-term plan reflecting the entire nation's commitment to the tough task of reconstruction that looms ahead, as well as a long-term institutionalization plan based on a nationwide agreement to fully reestablish a democratic system resting on a universally accepted foundation, as a result of the climate of harmony created by the challenge of the Malvinas Islands.

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CSO: 3010/1696

COUNTRY SECTION

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

COMMUNIST PARTY ON FALKLANDS--The Communist Party of Argentina [PCA] stated in Buenos Aires that the Malvinas incidents showed that the true enemies of this South American country are the United States, the United Kingdom and governments that obey NATO orders. Our true friends, the Argentine communists stressed, are the brother countries, the nonaligned and socialist countries headed by the USSR. In a statement issued in Buenos Aires, the PCA emphasized that the struggle in the political, diplomatic and military spheres to recover the Malvinas definitely and build a new, modern, independent, sovereign, democratic and progressive Argentina must be boosted. The government must now issue a call to all political organizations and social forces to agree on a common plan. This must be accompanied by a full restoration of democratic freedoms. [Excerpt] [PA161956 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 16 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1699

CASE MADE FOR GOOD RELATIONS WITH NICARAGUA

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 May 82 p 5-A

["Clock" Column, by Daniel Samper Pizano: "Beyond The Explosions"]

[Text] Nicaragua has had bad luck with Colombia. To begin with, during the Somoza tyranny, the dictator maintained a few and not too constructive ties with our country. He had his own investments in coal mines and some Colombians were, not properly anonymously, Somoza's partners in multinational financial adventures. None of this could delight or amuse the people who were suffering the outrages from someone who not only had stifled civil rights but also was using public funds for lucrative family interests.

When Somoza fell and the Sandinist junta came to power, the latter hastened to deny the existing demarcation treaties between Colombia and Nicaragua and to claim the San Andres archipelago with all its islands, islets and keys. This is a common aspiration. The claim was based on old patriotic feelings that were hurt at other times in Nicaraguan history and, furthermore, on the waving of banners promoting national unity. Naturally, Colombia was not responsible for the former and could not tolerate the threats of the latter. Thus, all Colombians, surprised and indignant, rejected the Nicaraguan claim and continue to do so.

The eager step taken by the Sandinist regime regarding the keys had the added regrettable effect of consolidating the United States as arbiter of the problem. Colombia already had permitted Washington to have voice and vote on the problem of sovereignty over the keys by negotiating a treaty with the United States in that regard.

With that position, our country recognized the existence of impossible doubts about its properties in the Caribbean. Thereafter, with the entry of Nicaragua to fight for a piece of the cake, the United States suddenly was raised to the category of final judge in a dispute in which it should not have had cards to play. But it remained with the aces in its hand. And if it played them in favor of Colombia after delaying strategies, it was thanks to its animosity against the revolutionary government of Nicaragua. It could very well have played its hand in favor of the Sandinists, and then we Colombians would have found ourselves in the delicate situation of having to defend something that is so much ours--San Andres and its keys.

The fact that in the end the U.S. Congress approved the treaty which recognized our national sovereignty over the area served to keep away the mediating temptation of the United States. But because of the delays and anguishes, it did not help to improve relations with Nicaragua. Lately, a dangerous belligerent ingredient, ever since rare explosions were heard on Providencia [island], has been added to the Colombian ill will against the Nicaraguans.

Some people see Nicaraguan bombers about to drop the atomic bomb over San Andres. And since the Malvinas war has added fuel to all the international fires, there is no lack of military and civilian voices asking that Colombia arm itself to repel an alleged and inevitable invasion ordered by Managua.

Such a climate necessarily and unconsciously affects the image we have about the Nicaraguan revolution. Radio stations and newspapers report all the news that is harmful to the junta--starting with some Sandinist abuses against the press--but they keep us in limbo about other interesting things that are happening in Nicaragua. For example, an EL TIEMPO editorial a few days ago interpreted Colombia's election to the OAS Human Rights Commission as "a part on the back to a nation that has been a zealous defender of justice and law." It did not mention, however, that Nicaragua had been elected to the same position along with Colombia and that, therefore, Nicaragua could claim similar attributes about its conduct regarding the rights of its citizens.

The bad feeling that exists among us with regard to Nicaragua also has precluded that we learn thoroughly the extraordinary educational revolution which the Sandinist government is making. Illiteracy rate has dropped radically--from 50 percent to 11.5--thanks to the crusade that was started in 1979, which UNESCO has called a model. The regime now proposes to offer free primary education to all Nicaraguans. To this end, it has accepted whatever resources it can get, even some questionable ones like the brigades of Cuban teachers. Friends and enemies of Nicaragua, including among the latter the famous Commander Zero, recognize the exemplary effort the revolution is making to educate its people.

Unfortunately, Colombia ignores it. The forest of poor relations does not let us see the positive trees that have flourished in Nicaragua. Now, with the visit to Bogota of Education Minister Carlos Tunnerman, the public has been able to look at that reality for the first time. Tunnerman lived in Colombia from 1975 to 1977 and here he showed his abilities as an education expert. He left Bogota to fight on the side of his compatriots against the Somoza regime. Following the triumph of the revolution, he has had under his control the most successful literacy campaign undertaken by any country of the world in recent years. Beyond the Providencia explosions, the claims over San Andres and the mining investments of the late Somoza, it would be worthwhile, to take advantage of Tunnerman and of Nicaragua to learn some of their experiences.

9925

CSO: 3010/1643

GROWERS ADVISED NOT TO PLANT COTTON

Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 12 May 82 pp 1-A, 13-A

[Text] The crisis that has been affecting cotton farming for the past 5 years reached bottom yesterday when it was learned that the leadership of FEDERALGODON and CONALGODON have decided to instruct their members not to plant "a single hectare" because there is no guarantee from the state or from the industrialists that such work would be profitable.

Hugo Mazuera Erazo, executive secretary of the Colombian Cotton Growers Confederation (CONALGODON), and Carlos Vergara Gomez-Casseres, general manager of the National Cotton Growers Federation (FEDERALGODON), made the announcement in a communique addressed to "the country's cotton growers."

A few weeks ago, the various subsectors involved in cotton farming--including banks, agricultural aviation, the pesticides and fertilizers industry, industrialists and associations of agronomists--decided on a peremptory date (5 May) for establishment of a support price as an incentive to growers.

EL TIEMPO was able to confirm that the textile industry went as far as offering up to 120,000 pesos per ton, and even offered to increase the demand for cotton which until the beginning of the year was only slightly more than 15,000 tons. However, the growers claimed that the minimum price should be 154,000 pesos.

The two officials maintained that from that date, their organizations could not guarantee the delivery of supplies and fertilizers to farmers, and they indicated that whoever did would "take the consequences."

They criticized the government--although they did not deny that it had heard the problem--for not setting cotton support prices as it does for other agricultural-livestock sector products. "It is a question of guaranteeing a minimum profit margin to the growers," they said.

It should be recalled that cotton farming used 300,000 hectares of land in 1977, and it did not reach 40,000 hectares for this year's last harvest. Moreover, the competitive farm product was taken out of the international market a few weeks ago because of low prices.

Letter to Agriculture Ministry

The CONALGODON and FEDERALGODON officials sent a letter to Agriculture and Livestock Minister Luis Fernando Londono Capurro explaining why an official statement was indispensable. They indicated three possible positions in the letter:

1. Plant cotton to satisfy domestic demand as long as there is a minimum price to cover costs; expand the credit line for development, create a domestic marketing line and promulgate measures to reduce the costs of supplies substantially.
2. Plant cotton for domestic demand and for export if, in addition to the aforementioned measures, an export price compensation mechanism is created to eliminate the negative effects of the lagging exchange rate.
3. Plant other crops instead of cotton as long as the government gives preferential treatment to such crops, keeping in mind the current difficult situation of the cotton growers. They emphasize at the end of their letter that other goods such as sorghum, corn and soybean, require support prices higher than international prices.

The Communiqué

Following is the communiqué which FEDERALGODON and CONALGODON yesterday addressed to "the country's cotton growers":

1. The textile industry, through DIAGONAL (National Cotton Distributors), has offered to pay a guaranteed price of only \$120,000 per ton of cotton for the 1982-83 Costa-Meta harvest. This means an increase of only 9.7 percent over last year. The industry refused to consider any increase for the current Tolima harvest over the price of the previous Costa harvest, despite the high increase of costs.
2. Production costs per hectare of cotton now average \$88,000, which in the face of the price offered by the textile industry would result in another loss of \$10,000.
3. A guaranteed price of \$154,000 per ton of cotton is required to make cotton growing barely 9.5 percent profitable.
4. During the 1981-82 Costa-Meta harvest, the textile industry changed its cotton requirements from the 42,000 tons officially established in December to 16,600 tons, and then bought 41,000 tons once the harvest had been completed. It is now requesting that 9,000 tons be imported without having absorbed the entire Costa harvest or having set price and payment conditions for the current harvest in the interior. This reduced the planted area to one-seventh.
5. Low international prices is the reason for such importation because Colombia, unlike almost all other countries, does not have guaranteed prices to maintain harvest continuity to supply the national industry on a permanent basis, as well as to maintain participation in world markets through mechanisms that compensate for the low international price and lagging exchange rate.

6. Although there is no agreement between the textile industry and cotton growers, the government did not intercede opportunely to set a profitable minimum price for the 1982 harvest in the interior and for the 1982-83 Costa-Meta harvest, although the minister of agriculture declared at said forum: "...I should like to state that government intervention is required only when there is no agreement between the interested parties and such a decision must be based on the common good and not on that of a particular sector." And he added: "...I see with concern that buying-and-selling agreements between the growers and the industry are taking place when the harvest is ending, and not during the planting season which would be the correct thing to do if the industry wants to guarantee income to growers and plan for raw material requirements."

In view of the aforementioned, CONALGODON and FEDERALGODON believe it is appropriate to urge cotton growers to analyze the facts outlined which, if they were to plant, would lead to new losses for them and for the associations that provide seeds and supplies under such conditions.

Government Position

For his part, Agriculture Minister Luis Fernando Londono explained to the growers' associations that in view of low international prices, it was advisable to plant for the next season to satisfy domestic demand.

Replying to the leaders of the growers' associations, London Capurro said that in view of the international market situation, "it does seem wise to schedule planting that would generate exportable surpluses because such a decision to plant would mean a significant risk to the associations and growers."

Minister Londono Capurro reiterated that the government has given all the support within its reach to encourage exports, but that "it is not within its power or of the cotton growers to change the external market conditions in a short period of time or to implement cotton subsidy conditions to guarantee an acceptable profit."

He emphasized that unlike other associations to which support prices are set, the cotton growers have not projected their production costs for the next planting season or established a reasonable profit margin.

Lastly, he asked the cotton growers that he be informed of the conclusion of the talks they are holding with DIAGONAL concerning industry requirements for the January-June 1983 period; the acreage required to satisfy domestic demand, and the price expected by the growers and the one offered by the industry.

The minister made an urgent request for the conditions under which the interior harvest--about to begin--will be negotiated, although this matter was not included in the initial statement of the cotton growers associations.

In reply to the cotton growers' position, Minister Londono Capurro explained that it was appropriate to plant only to cover domestic demand. He also recalled the support which the government always has given to cotton exports and the limitations on setting the cotton support price now requested by the growers.

REAGAN POLICY TOWARD LATIN AMERICA VIEWED

Havana PRISMA LATINOAMERICANO in Spanish May 82 pp 24-25

[Article by Jose Dos Santos: "Sclerosis of the Empire"]

[Text] The involution of the political philosophy of the present U.S. governors with its sequel of threats and danger has been the subject of careful analysis in Cuba, one of its latent victims.

Since the elections with an aggressive Republican platform on foreign policy, the socialist neighbor of the U.S. empire has carefully followed a purported return to the "big stick" and the Cold War.

The Cuban Government's first public evaluation was made by President Fidel Castro at the opening of the Second PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] Congress in December 1980. He said that Ronald Reagan's election meant the introduction of an element of danger in the relations between the two countries.

The intentions expressed by the Republican group that assumed power in the United States were considered "extremely reactionary and dangerous."

Some 18 months have passed since the Cuban leader warned about this new critical period for world peace that began with the Reagan government. Events have proven him right.

The different analyses in Cuba of Washington's present policy have provided valid conclusions for Cubans as well as other peoples in the region.

Reagan's last speech to the OAS was an occasion for one of the most complete evaluations of the philosophy, projections and future of the present U.S. leadership.

The most obvious conclusion from reading Reagan's speech is the inability of the U.S. Government to achieve even an elementary understanding of the real problems that affect Central America and the Caribbean.

To Cuba, "the irremediable decadence of the empire, a political sclerosis of the far right in power," was revealed.

The U.S. president's focus on the Latin American situation showed that Washington tries to "whimsically replace realities with primitive and treacherous schemes," arrogantly ignoring the true facts.

To Cuba, "this imperialist group means an involution of the political philosophy of its class."

It feels that the Reagan plan for Central America and the Caribbean, the poorest region on the continent, is a bad caricature of the Alliance for Progress announced 20 years ago when the United States was at the peak of its postwar economic expansion.

The omission in the plan presented by the U.S. president of the need for changes in the asphyxiating semifeastal structures that reign in many countries of the region and the conditions of hunger, poverty, illiteracy and poor health that those peoples suffer, the root of their constant rebellion, is noteworthy.

In editorials published in its official organ, the PCC stressed:

"With deep concern, we can verify the return to such regressive plans as the worn-out and grotesque Monroe Doctrine in this speech. According to this, we are given a citizenship card and a code of conduct whose approval and control are the prerogative of the Washington patriarchs."

It also denounced that, at the same time, "the caveman formulas of the late Senator McCarthy reappear at the continental level. It would merely be a ridiculous exercise in ultraconservative nostalgia if it were not part of the vengeful platform of a fascist-like group."

Cuba feels that the attempt to revert the historic process through an international counterrevolutionary and anticomunist crusade incapacitates the present U.S. governors to realistically accept the irreversible nature of the Cuban revolution and the determination for independence and social justice of the peoples of Nicaragua and Grenada.

That also keeps them from understanding the basis of the popular rebellion in El Salvador and the patriotic fight in Guatemala.

Unattainable Mirage

In Cuba's opinion, the formula that Reagan presented for the impoverished economies in that region "would not have been any good even in 1882." To try to solve the problems of underdevelopment today by "appealing to tax reliefs, the application of some fiscal incentives for the private and oligarchical sectors and the attraction of eventual multinational investments is an unattainable mirage."

The proposal for a complementary allocation of \$350 million was not only considered niggardly but also denounced as a cruel joke. As was recognized even in the United States Congress, in 1979 alone the United States received more

than \$100 million daily from its investments abroad. This year it is allocating more than \$200 billion to its military budget.

The set of measures announced by Reagan--which are unlikely to benefit the popular masses--is aimed basically at increasing U.S. investments in the Caribbean, a way to intensify penetration and domination and to accentuate the economic dependence of those countries on the northern empire.

To Cuba, as to any honest analyst, the United States is not in the position to offer any solution to the problems that the Central American and Caribbean peoples suffer because its exploiting, intervening and neocolonialist actions caused them and aggravated them.

The Cuban authorities also warned about the danger of ideas on regional security; the United States is ready to do "everything that is prudent and necessary."

They directly denounced the fact that Reagan hinted at the possibility of collective military action against the countries that have liberated themselves or fight to liberate themselves from Washington's tutelage.

That forces Cuba, more than ever, to remain alert, prepared and vigilant.

Havana also emphasized the value of the proposal of the Mexican president, Jose Lopez-Portillo, to resolve the most pressing conflicts in the area through negotiations.

In a message to Lopez-Portillo, Fidel Castro stated: "You can count on the government and people of Cuba and my personal commitment to find ways to eliminate tensions and lead to the democratic and peaceful solution of the anguishing problems that the majority of the countries in the area suffer."

Another passage in Cuba's analysis of Reagan's statements to the OAS points out that it is worrisome that "the most powerful and aggressive imperialist country on earth bases its international conduct, political plans and...military activity on such arbitrary, primitive and fallacious assumptions like the alleged expansion of the violent revolution in Central America with Soviet backing and active Cuban support."

To belie that last statement, John F. Kennedy's statements were cited. In March 1961, as president of the United States, he said: "Throughout Latin America...millions of men and women suffer the daily deprivations of poverty and hunger."

Kennedy himself--who did not have any sympathy for communists or leftists--recognized that "each day the problems are more pressing. The demographic growth surpasses economic development--the low standards of living worsen--and the discontent of a people...increases."

The social discontent of two decades ago has today become an open struggle for real popular emancipation in many countries. Reagan and his followers persist in seeing the causes for this beyond their borders.

Also Cuba has had to consolidate its defensive capacity throughout its 23 years of revolution, plagued by aggression of every type to destroy it. Now Washington tries to present this as threatening to the neighbors of the largest of the Antilles.

Cuba feels that the so-called "Cuban rearment" mentioned to the OAS Council by Reagan is part of the U.S. misinformation and distortion campaign to promote the isolation of a country that has endured every type of pressure, attack, threat and slander and continues its socialist construction.

The United States also uses this slander campaign on Cuba's alleged military strengthening to proclaim that "hemispheric interests" and its own are endangered and thus justify an increase in military budgets and its armed presence in the region.

Respect and Be Respected

Concerning that statement, the national hero of Cuba, Jose Marti, concluded: "The sword responds to the sword and friendship to friendship."

The Marti philosophy, dialectically in harmony with the principles of Marxism-Leninism, summarizes Cuba's position of principles in this case as in many others.

As Fidel Castro explained to the Mexican president, "no people in America should fear Cuban arms which will never be used for fratricidal aggression." The Cuban leader warned on another occasion that "no one will accept the U.S. threat against our lives without a resolute and heroic fight."

In the mentioned analysis of Reagan's speech, the Cuban opinion was definitive on this subject:

"Our doors have not been nor will be closed to realistic and unconditioned dialogue. At the same time, they will serve as a strong shield facing Yankee aggressiveness and prepotency and will be an unsurmountable barrier for those who try to attack Cuba."

This showed once more the correctness of Cuba's statements, the solidity of its views and the vitality of its principles ratified at the Second PCC Congress held 1-1/2 years ago.

At that great forum it was also stated that "if there is an olive branch, we will not reject it. If the hostility and aggression continue, we will respond energetically."

Feeling that the normalization of relations with the United States would help the political climate in Latin America and the Caribbean, Cuba stated, nevertheless, that no one had to pretend that he would change his position or violate his principles.

Its willingness to dialogue and defend national sovereignty remains very much in effect today, defying the sclerosis of the empire.

COMMENTARY SCORES URUGUAY'S POLITICAL OPENING

FL172127 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1700 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Cuban revolutionary armed forces and Interior Ministry combatants political information program commentary]

[Text] The Uruguayan regime, headed by retired Lt Gen Gregorio Alvarez since last September, finds itself engaged in a so-called political opening process, which attempts to mask the military dictatorship's permanent control of all sectors of society. This process includes the implementation of a newly approved law governing political parties which has an anti-democratic characteristic because it legalizes the suspension of leftist groups such as the Communist Party and the broad front, whose leader is Gen Liber Seregni.

The only activities that will be allowed in the future will be those of the traditional political parties--the Blanco, the Colorado and the Civic Union--the three which have always responded to the local oligarchy's currents of opinion, although at this time certainly there is internal dissension among them.

Party elections have been scheduled for the end of this year. The dictatorship will try to guarantee that those civilian candidates who seemed destined to become the regime's trusted men would in fact get elected.

A few dozen people have regained their political rights but meanwhile thousands of other citizens have been stripped of theirs, have left the country or simply live in absolute secrecy in Uruguay itself.

All of these conciliatory measures, which reportedly would enable the return to democracy, are aimed at improving the internal image of the dictatorship and avoiding the building up of feelings of nationalism in the people, revived by the colonialist aggression in the Malvinas.

We should remember that in 1980 the same Uruguayan people rejected an attempt to establish a reactionary constitution with a forceful no on the ballots concerning the referendum proposed by the military regime at that time.

That response made the hardline methods vary so much that it became a campaign where demagogic and ideological diversion have the leading voice. However, very few Uruguayans have fallen into the trap. The people become more aware each day that the alleged political opening and the desire to hold general elections in 1984 only hide the regime's interest of holding on to power behind the civilian figures which should assume power in two years.

No one has forgotten that the Uruguayan prisons remain full of political prisoners, among which are Gen Liber Seregni, leader of the broad front, Tupamaro leader Raul Sendic--who will have completed 10 years of imprisonment in September--communist fighter (Jaime Perez) and trade union leaders (Vladimir Turianski), (Hector) and (Washington Rodriguez).

Many of these revolutionaries have been tortured, as in Sendic's case, who has complained of heart problems and whose tongue is semi-paralyzed as a result of a gunshot wound inflicted at the time he was captured. The weak health of these comrades endangers their lives because they never receive medical attention.

Amid this repressive picture, it is impossible to believe the propaganda of a political opening. Therefore, the leftist organizations, the banned national convention of workers and some independent sectors continue to struggle against the top governing body because, as stated by the Uruguayan Communist Party, it is clear that the dictatorship tries to give up the least possible over the longest term.

CSO: 3010/1713

CASTRO RECEIVES AID REQUEST FROM 'ARAFAT

FL180102 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2300 GMT 17 Jun 82

[Text of letter sent to nonaligned movement chairman Fidel Castro by PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat--date not given]

[Text] Palestinian leader Yasir 'Arafat has issued an appeal to commander in chief Fidel Castro as chairman of the nonaligned countries, requesting him to make every possible effort to check Israel's criminal and fascist aggressive invasion against the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. The message was sent last night from Beirut, capital of Lebanon.

I am writing to you from Beirut, 'Arafat states, which is surrounded by fascist forces, whose aerial, maritime and ground bombardments have transformed it into a hell for women, children and the civilian population. I write, he adds, so that the entire world may learn about the reality of the brutal plot being confronted by the Lebanese and Palestinian peoples. He notes that this hell is going on while the world observes and remains silent. This Israeli invasion, fully supported and maintained by the United States militarily, politically, diplomatically and economically, has caused an enormous destruction, 'Arafat stresses, citing numbers which are more than eloquent.

The first estimates of the victims and deaths among the Lebanese and Palestinian populations are 10,000 dead or wounded, 30,000 whose whereabouts are not known and 300,000 persons without lodging, in addition to the total destruction of 14 Palestinian camps and 3 large Lebanese cities--Tyre, Sidon and Nabatiyah.

As a demonstration of the criminal nature of the zionist aggression, in his message to Fidel, 'Arafat charges that despite his acceptance of the cease-fire on two occasions, this enemy continues the military operations daily and its forces continue to advance throughout Lebanon to the extent that it has even seized the presidential palace.

On another subject, the chairman of the executive committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasir 'Arafat, has asked the community of nations to send immediately a UN commission of the highest level to investigate

the crimes that the Israeli armed forces have perpetrated and continue to perpetrate in Lebanon.

I demand, he says in a message sent to the UN secretariat general, that the United Nations put an end to the criminal invasion and achieve a total and unconditional withdrawal of the Israeli troops in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution No 509.

CSO: 3010/1713

'PRELA' DIRECTOR COMMENTS ON AGENCY'S ROLE

PA172118 Havana International Service in Spanish 2310 GMT 15 Jun 82

[Text] Today, 16 June, is the 23d anniversary of the founding of PRENSA LATINA [PRELA] the Latin American News Agency. To mark this occasion, we present PRELA news director Enrique Garcia Medina today, who will first tell us about how the idea of founding PRELA initially emerged.

[Begin recording] PRELA was created on 16 June 1959, exactly 23 years ago. The agency was created in response to our revolution's need for defense.

The revolution was besieged by news agencies that responded then, and that still respond, to the interests of the Cuban revolution's enemies, which distorted the basic events taking place in our country, a trend that was noticeable even before the insurrection's triumph to some extent and that became even more marked after the 1 January triumph.

Logically, then, it was necessary to publish the truth about the events that were taking place in our country--for this reason, it was decided to create PRELA. Commander Ernesto "Che" Guevara had a very prominent role in this. He contacted his Argentine colleague (Ricardo Mazzetti) from the mountains and, at a meeting presided over by commander in chief Fidel Castro, the decision to create the agency was reached. At that meeting, when Fidel asked what name should be given to the agency, (Mazzetti) replied: We will call it PRENSA LATINA. Therefore, the agency was founded with that name, under the direction of (Jose Ricardo Mazzetti).

Now, 23 years later, we can see that we have not only continued to exist, we have grown. The agency has been consolidated. Today we have offices in 36 countries and stringers in other countries, a total of 12 stringers. These are newsmen who supply information to the agency, but who do not work in specific offices. We have opened offices in 36 countries. The agency currently transmits news in Spanish, English, French and Portuguese. We provide news services from 0400 to 1200, with special casts, as I said, in different languages for different parts of the world.

We believe that, with all of the logical limitations, we have fulfilled the role for which PRELA was created. We are not complacent. We feel that more could have been done, but we are privately convinced that we have done our duty as fighters with the pen, fighters with the revolutionary word. [End recording]

Garcia Medina also mentioned the work done by PRENSA LATINA in the nonaligned countries' efforts to achieve a new international news system.

[Begin recording] One very important aspect of our work concerns the new international information system. Needless to say, our country currently heads the movement of nonaligned countries and, within that group, an effort has been made to combat the transnational agencies' news monopoly. The nonaligned news agencies' pool has been created. Within this pool, PRELA reproduces for Latin America the main reports from countries outside our area that are nonaligned movement members. Because of technical limitations, this news could not otherwise reach hundreds of news media. This makes it possible for our peoples to be better informed.

I believe that we have also played a role in the struggle of the countries that have been and continue to be historically exploited by colonialism, neocolonialism and capitalism, particularly in Latin America, Africa and Asia, in the struggle for the ascendancy of the revolutionary struggle for liberation staged by those three continents' kindred peoples. [End recording]

CSO: 3010/1713

TUNA FISHING INDUSTRY, FLEET VIEWED

Havana MAR Y PESCA in Spanish Jan 82 pp 9-13

[Article by Luis Ubeda: "Efficient Enterprise"]

[Text] Among the more complex factors in the fishing industry is the management of a fleet. In our country at the present time, there are three important high-sea fleets: the Cuban Fishing Fleet, the FAC [Cuban Tuna Fishing Fleet] and the Gulf Fishing Fleet. The fishing complexes at different points on the island also have flotillas responsible for catching shrimp, lobster, chelonian and other species and products of the sea around our insular shelf.

As we said at the beginning, the complexity in the operation of a fleet is due to the broad range of work that it covers. Therefore, there are different subdirectorates like production, technology, human resources, economics, supplies, etc., and departments like the department for attention to crews, qualification, etc. They are the gears of this machine and the key to success lies in their serious and organized work.

Today we will refer to an enterprise that, throughout its history, has reaped many productive achievements--the FAC.

More than 1,800 crewmen and land workers make up this collective that operates tuna fishing boats, a tuna trawler and several units to support the fishing activity from two bases: one in the port of Havana and the other in the port of La Luz in Las Palmas, Gran Canaria. Veteran captains--not so much in age but in experience--are in charge of catching tuna and other commercial species (swordfish, needlefish, shark, etc.) on the long, deepsea fishing lines or nets, having as background the waters of the Central Atlantic, the Gulf of Guinea and the Caribbean Sea.

Most of the fishing activity falls on the production subdirectorate which is responsible for the strategy, movements and other actions of the fishing and support flotillas. In this kind of sport-science, the production subdirectorate is the brain that conducts the parts and confronts a rival that it can only conquer through a profound knowledge of its habits and movements at certain times of the year, the rational use of days at sea and planned effective days of fishing and, especially, the experience of its officers and the rest of the crew who work an average of 140-day trips with a plan of 100 casts of the fishing lines.

The year 1981 was filled with difficulties in fishing, mainly due to the low average number of ships operating in the fishing zones--only 13. This is explained by the /age/ [in boldface] of the technology used, ships constructed more than 15 years ago which, consequently, must have special repairs that keep them out of production for a long time.

Nevertheless, to a great degree the low average number of ships operating was made up for by the effectiveness of the catches. The daily average--until last November--was 1.9 tons while the best and worst quarters were 2.4 and 2.0 tons respectively. In that period, there were 3,460 fishing days and those at sea rose to 4,734, surpassing the productive yield of the "Pargo," "merluza" and "Anchoa" motorized fishing boats.

Only the selfless and meritorious effort of the tuna fishermen made it possible for the FAC to overfulfill its annual plan by 4 percent by catching 8,728.6 tons with 8,428 tons planned in 1981. No one can question the perseverance and effort of these men in a difficult task and environment where risk is routine and where the workdays are much longer than normal. No one can question their actions, I repeat, because these same men were those who overfulfilled their commitments for catch and unloading by 2 percent in the 5-year period 1976-80 and who made it possible for the FAC year after year to be the best high-sea fleet in the Red Hot Fishing Emulation.

In the strategy followed at the enterprise level during the past year, one interesting fact stands out: not only are most of the leadership personnel in the production subdirectorate officers with prestige and proven experience but this also extends to other subdirectorates or departments of the enterprise like human resources, technology, attention to the crews and qualification, to cite only a few.

The human resources subdirectorate directs all the movements of the personnel at sea. This includes supervision of prior medical check-ups, formation of crews, reliefs, etc., as well as the selection of the seamen for the support flotillas based on facilitating the advancement of cadres and workers in general or taking care of temporary personal situations.

For its part, the technology subdirectorate--with a staff of 115 workers--is responsible for maintenance and small repairs on the FAC ships and equipment. It also supervises capital repairs done in our country and abroad.

In 1981 the priority tasks of this subdirectorate included the repair and conversion of shrimp refrigeration boats constructed in France more than 10 years ago into tuna fishing boats. Given the amount of work in the capital repair of the hull and the engine, this is being done at the Mariel Shipyard Enterprise where, at the end of the year, they were working on six boats simultaneously. At the Chullima Enterprise, an F-16 was remodeled and later sent to Mariel for capital repairs.

The strategy of this type of intermediate flotilla is based on the following: south of Cuba, on the edge of our shelf that runs from the Isle of Youth to the eastern provinces, large schools of tuna and other species of exportable

value were detected. The first shrimp boat turned tuna boat--the F-10--recorded an acceptable daily average catch during its first trip. More recently, 22.5 tons were caught in slightly more than 40 days of fishing.

This shop model has a main engine of 400 horsepower, its length is 25.2 meters, the beam measures 6.7 meters, the depth of hold is 3.56 meters, cargo capacity is about 51.6 tons and it displaces 225.7 tons. To convert it into a tuna boat, it was necessary to eliminate the swinging booms and the bipod (mast) as well as the trawling motor. The sleeping quarters in the bow were converted into a dried storage room, adding a cabin-dormitory in the bridge behind the funnel, a motor to control the fishing line, the fishing hut at the stern, the */slaughterhouse/* [in boldface] on the starboard side and modification of the interior sides which now have a height of 1.06 meters from the strake to the gunwale cover.

In the first quarter of 1982, three tuna boats of this type must be added to the two now in operation. It is planned in the not too distant future to have nine boats without discarding the idea that later--if the fishing zone maintains acceptable yields--more will be added. Meanwhile, the technology subdirectorate will undertake preventive repairs (decarbonization of the main engine and the auxiliary plants, carpentry, painting, etc.) of two tuna boats 50 meters long this year as well as supervision of the general repair of another at the Havana fishing port and two other preventive repairs there.

Economically speaking, the FAC enterprise had an efficient yield in 1981. At the end of 1981, the gross catch showed a 4-percent overfulfillment and unloading 1-percent overfulfillment. The value of mercantile production had 105-percent fulfillment.

Other aspects covered under Economic Calculation show that the average number of workers ended at 99 percent while productivity was overfulfilled by 9 percent. The enterprise applied the General Wage Reform at all its levels, a process that began in September 1980 and ended 14 months later. Since August 1981, the tie between production and bonus was put into practice on a motorized fishing boat; this measure is gradually being incorporated in the remaining fishing units.

Other positive aspects in the economic management of the FAC are the cost per peso of gross mercantile and real production. In the first category, the plan at the end of the year rose to 1.21 pesos while real production had a decrease of 11 centavos (1.10). Mercantile production which means everything invested--spent--in the production process recorded a savings of 20 centavos (P: 1.21; R: 1.01). Real production--that is, the behavior of the production-sales-collection cycle--was favorable by 2 centavos. In the same period, the planned losses in mercantile production managed to decrease 1,985,500 pesos. We must also point out that the FAC has already been authorized to create material stimulation funds.

One of the tasks in which it can be said that our great mass of workers is involved is cultural and technical advancement. This mission is extremely difficult in a fishing fleet where several hundred men live a good part of

the year on ships. But with patient and organized work, the difficulties are overcome.

The FAC qualification department worked that way in 1981. The number of workers at sea advancing culturally rose to 499 and 247 advanced technically. Of the 17 courses planned--for engine and deck officers, technicians, mechanics, cooks, nurses, etc.--15 were carried out. The other two could not be developed due to lack of material base. These courses are cosponsored by the Ministry of Education and the certificates issued are official. There has also been good work in the advanced-level technical qualification of officers.

Vocational training among the children of FAC workers is developing enthusiastically with positive results. They meet every Saturday at the Marine Pioneers Circle of the Ernesto Che Guevara Pioneer Palace in Lenin Park.

Today the average educational level of the FAC is completion of the first half of secondary school. At this time, there are 946 fishermen with less than a ninth grade education. Although there are still 4 years to fulfill the commitment that all workers have a ninth grade education by 1985, this enterprise is giving priority to this task now (basically among the personnel at sea where distance and, occasionally, the lack of teachers conspire against it).

Another department that plays an important role in a fleet is the one for attention to the crew. Its objectives are beautiful and humane and the worker at sea as well as his family are the beneficiaries. Receiving correspondence, newspapers, magazines and video-cassettes on interesting materials during the fishing trip improves the spirit and injects new strength. The same thing occurs when we know that our families will not be alone facing any problem that might arise. Those are realities that the personnel who work in a department like this must never lose sight of--that is, to be truly receptive toward problems, indefatigable in the search for solutions and alert to the productive battle and those who await the return of their loved ones.

Lastly, we must refer to the functions developed by the political and mass organizations within the FAC. The communist youth of the enterprise had a year filled with activities like the Plan of Production Initiatives saluting the fourth congress of their organization; at the beginning of last December, there was 246-percent fulfillment. The collective that received the Economic Objective Center Banner is also trying for the Production Initiatives Award. Its more than 460 members and 170 aspirants propose to win it.

Party activity was reinforced last year by notable growth. All the production and support ships have PCC [Communist Party of Cuba] cells and the 585 members of the party constitute a solid political and worker shield, a faithful reflection of the virtues and prestige of these men and women who work in the FAC.

The activity of the FAC Union Bureau showed a favorable balance last year. One of the most important tasks was the application of piece payment with bonuses after completing a study on board the M/P "Merluza." It also received the plaque and the award as Second PCC Congress Emulation Promoter

Center and collaborated with the department for attention to the crew to send two cultural missions to the fishing zone.

Obviously much more can be written about the work done by the FAC in 1981. But words are unnecessary when the deeds are here, obvious, visible to all. This is especially true of the daily feats of these brave fishermen whose productive feats year after year swell the history of the center, a history rich in effort, bravery and camaraderie.

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CSO: 3010/1686

QUALITY NOT QUANTITY EMPHASIZED IN CANE PLANTING

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 21 May 82 p 36

[Article by Andres Rodriguez: "The Permanent Stamp of Quality"; passages enclosed in slantlines printed in boldface]

[Text] The spring planting campaign this year does not have the tremendous pressure on quantity that was seen last year. However, the necessary increase in quality must be met. Apparently quality is becoming the permanent stamp of such an important and costly activity.

Some months ago Diccles Torralba, minister of the sugar industry, publicly announced the complete elimination of what he called the /practice of planting just to plant/. The rules of the game were set then at the highest level of MINAZ [Ministry of the Sugar Industry].

These rules are very good since they emphasize pressure on quality throughout the planting campaign, whether spring, winter or all seasons. Those who plant guided exclusively by fulfillment of goals will harvest caballerias but they will never harvest the true potential of the cane.

Planting has become the productive /undertaking/ that requires /consistency/ in cultivation activities like clearing or fighting weeds. If the undertaking has unsatisfactory results, it will cause noticeable, almost irremediable harm.

It is noteworthy that even today a good part of our cane enterprises have between 70 and 80 percent density in their fields. The opportuneness of the rules of the game expressed by the minister is worth repeating.

To achieve the permanent stamp of quality, however, also demands--it should be repeated--quality seed. The situation in the present spring campaign is much better than in the past.

The enterprises already have, to a greater or lesser degree, legitimate seed banks, a primary factor for planting. Without being so smug as not to see the bad spots, it must be emphasized that implementation of these banks represents an outstanding achievement in cane agriculture in recent times.

It looks like this will be permanent, the concrete manifestation of a great truism: giving cane seed the same discriminating and special treatment that is given to cattle insemination.

The basic thing in all this is that cane cultivation progresses slowly and is no longer a simple concept that is tossed around and mishandled.

Because of the emergency mobilization decreed for the required elimination of weeds on the cane fields, our "Tandem" section has already packed their bags to follow that mobilization to those places in the country most affected.

We announced that the first incursion will take place in Ciego de Avila, a province with many cane fields and not enough people to attend them.

We will also go to Sancti Spiritus, stimulated to a good degree by engineer Calzadilla of the MINAZ Agrotechnology Office who recently returned from that province very impressed by what they are doing at the Uruguay cane fields. We will see what we will see.

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CSO: 3010/1686

CARDENAS FACTORY TO PRODUCE RAILWAY SWITCHES

Havana BOHEMIA in Spanish 21 May 82 p 32

[Article by Gregorio Hernandez]

[Text] The municipality of Cardenas is known for many things from the ship-building industry--shipyard for the construction of smaller ships--to production of picturesque and traditional means of transportation for the local population like bicycles and carriages.

Nevertheless--perhaps for this very reason--a very important activity for efficiency in the railway branch and its positive effect on savings of foreign currency is quickly starting. We are referring to the production of railway switches. They are generally imported from capitalist countries at a high investment of freely convertible currency.

In spite of the smallness of the shop compared to the amount of production and in spite of the backwardness of its installations, tools and equipment, it tripled fulfillment of the plan last year. That meant that its workers, mostly youths, immediately received recognition from the highest levels of the party and the revolutionary government.

But they did not stop at that. The engineers and technicians proposed more:

To produce railway switches with the Soviet-made P-50 rails that are being assembled in the construction and reconstruction of the Havana-Santiago rapid transit.

For the first time, the mechanical planning of this type of switch whose advantages to the national economy are obvious is beginning in Cuba.

Some of the advantages we can mention are that it makes the country independent from buying rails from capitalist countries and permits Cuba to acquire them in socialist countries which supply us with this basic railway component.

The production capacity of the Cardenas shop increases when guaranteed the basic element, the P-50 rail.

Also the weight per axle of the Cuban switches can be increased since the low-tonnage maneuvering locomotives are being eliminated, replaced by ones that have an average weight of 110 tons.

These switches will be delivered with uprights made out of useless rails, replacing the wood uprights which are in short supply in the country.

In addition to these achievements, there is a number of technical advantages like:

Better durability of the switch due to the quality of the rail; greater safety in its use; and its characteristics are the same as No. 9, easily adapted to any of the present railroad yards.

Also we want to emphasize that, for the first time, this railway switch is designed and its parts built by Cuban engineers without any help. They have the experience of the 80-pound switches manufactured in the Cardenas shop and the characteristics of the Soviet P-50 rail.

Mass production of this switch will begin on 26 July in salute to the 29th anniversary of the attack on Moncada barracks.

This singular achievement in quality in the railway infrastructure of the country had the creative participation of engineers Bartolo Felipe Rodriguez Faldon, Luis Alderete Ayestaran, Juan Sasco Tadeo and Vicente Gonzalez Gonzalez and designers Milagros Santana and Aleida Clapes. Also it should be pointed out that the members of the Youth Technical Brigade and other workers in the Cardenas shop, adscript to the western division of the national railroad, contributed to mechanical processing work.

7717
CSO: 3010/1686

COMMITTEE SAYS 30,000 MISSING SINCE 1980

PA122219 Guatemala City Radio Nuevo Mundo in Spanish 1200 GMT 11 Jun 82

[Text] According to the Committee of Relatives of Missing Persons [Comite de Personas de Familiares Desaparecidos] more than 30,000 persons have vanished without a trace in Guatemala since 1980. Members of the committee said that all of these persons were either kidnapped or dropped out of sight under unclear circumstances, and that since most of them were spouses or children who were the breadwinners in their family many wives and mothers have been left without any means of support.

Committee leaders said that the University Students Association [AEU] has been planning a number of ways to get the government authorities to begin whatever investigations are necessary to locate the missing persons.

The committee leaders said that the AEU has prepared a complete report containing the particulars of the people who have been missing in Guatemala since 1980, so that the government can begin its investigations through the police authorities and the district attorney's office. So far, they added, we have not been able to elicit a positive response from the government.

The committee is therefore asking Gen Efrain Rios Montt, the president of the republic, to please help them to locate their relatives, since the police authorities have not responded favorably to any of their many overtures. Several members of the committee came to this station and asked us to relay their request to President Rios Montt, for they are certain that he will help them because of his Christian and humanitarian spirit.

CSO: 3010/1707

BISHOPS CONDEMN RECENT MASSACRE OF PEASANTS

PA140232 Panama City LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 10 Jun 82 p 19

[Statement issued by the Guatemalan Episcopal Conference in Guatemala City on 27 May 1982]

[Text] In keeping with the mission entrusted to it by Christ, its divine founder, the Catholic Church cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of the men to whom it preaches and whom it blesses. The bishops of Guatemala share the anguish of mankind, particularly the anguish of the most destitute and humble men. In keeping with our mission of proclaiming and defending the dignity of all human beings, we express our deepest concern over the latest events, specifically the massacre of many peasant and Indian families.

The Facts

1. With deep sorrow, we have discovered and confirmed our people's suffering over these killings, which have already been reported in the media. Many families have been cruelly murdered. Not even the aged, pregnant women or innocent children were spared.
2. This irrational violence could not have more disastrous consequences for the survivors: orphanhood; premature widowhood; insecurity; terror; and hunger, because of lands left uncultivated, and villages destroyed or abandoned.
3. We believe that the populace is not fully aware of the large number of refugees in and around the country, and of the continuing exodus of both teachers and students from schools in the interior of the country.

Christian Reflection

In view of these harsh facts, the bishops of Guatemala feel obliged to make the following comments:

1. Never in the nation's history have we reached such extremes. These murders can be described as genocide. We have to admit that these acts directly contradict the divine commandment: "Thou Shall Not Kill."

2. "God, who looks after us all with paternal care, wants all men to form a single family and treat each other as brothers." [Presumably a biblical quotation.] The most basic human right is the right to life and to good health. If this basic right is not effectively respected, guarded and protected, it will be impossible for Guatemalans to live in a just and fraternal order, as God wants. We repeat the words of Pope John Paul II: "Murder must be called by its true name: Murder is murder and political or ideological motivations, far from changing its nature, on the contrary lose their own dignity."¹

3. It grieves us that there should be extreme rightist or leftist elements that seek to justify murder. We recall what we said in a communique on 15 May 1980: "Neither the fear of communism nor the futile hope of changing the existing unjust institutions can be a pretext or justification for killing one's brother."²

4. Since Guatemala is basically a Christian country, it is inconceivable that Guatemalans should destroy each other in an absurd and irrational confrontation, disrupting the marvelous order that God, himself, wants. True peace, as we have repeated in our communiqües and pastoral letters during the past few years, can only be the fruit of justice and love. It would be truly sorrowful for the words of the Lord to the Prophet Isaiah to apply to our fatherland: "This people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honor me, but have removed their heart far from me."³

Conclusions:

1. As Guatemalans and bishops we consider it our solemn duty to once again condemn the violence that has reached such serious extremes as this massacre of peasants. We hope that all honest Guatemalans will condemn these acts of unspeakable barbarism.

2. Sharing the pain of so many families which have been mercilessly struck by this violence, we ask and we beg, in the name of God, that the lives and physical well-being of our peasants be respected. We ask the authorities, who are responsible for effectively safeguarding individual safety and common well-being, to investigate these painful incidents in order to keep those responsible from going completely unpunished.

3. We ask Catholic parishioners and all men of good will to take positions that will contribute to a climate of true fraternity and effective justice. We believe that there is still time to take a new path toward just and fraternal social coexistence, and toward the peace that all honest Guatemalans desire. At this historic moment in which we are living--a moment full of the light of hope and the shadow of anguish--we trust that a Christian concept of life will replace the ideologies of hatred that have done us so much harm. We hope that, despite these painful incidents, we will never lose the ability to assess the true value of suffering, as the first step toward coexistence among brothers.

We beg the protection of Mary, mother of Christ and of the church, so that all Guatemalans may be inspired by the faith and love that made her obedient to the will of the father.

FOOTNOTES

1. John Paul II, Journey of Peace, 1 January 1980.
2. CEG, 15 May 1980, 3.2. [No expansion of reference given]
3. Is. 29-13.

CSO: 3010/1707

COUNTRY SECTION

GUATEMALA

BRIEFS

INDIANS INTO MEXICO--Hundreds of Indians from the Nenton Municipality in the Huehuetenango Department have fled to Mexican territory in recent days, searching for a safe refuge. According to a dispatch from the Agencia Independiente de Prensa, AIP, the Indians had originally abandoned their crops and homes last year and had fled to Mexico, but they returned to Guatemala. However, last week, several Indians in Huehuetenango Department were killed while sleeping in their homes by Guatemalan soldiers wearing civilian clothes. Those who escaped the new slaughter against Guatemalan Indians described the massacre. According to AIP, the continuing murder and persecution have forced the Guatemalan Indians to flee to Mexico.
[Text] [PA110100 Managua Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 9 Jun 82]

CSO: 3010/1707

DROP IN POPULATION GROWTH RATE PREDICTED

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Apr 82 p 33-A

[Text] The overall population growth rate will drop at the end of this year to 2.3 percent, which means the National Program for Family Planning [PNPF] will have reached and even surpassed its ambitious goals, said Dr Jorge Martinez Manautou yesterday.

Martinez Manautou, head of Family Planning Services at the Mexican Social Security Institute [IMSS], announced these figures at a work session presided over by Dr Luis Torregrosa Ferraez, assistant general medical director of the Institute, who was standing in for Mr Arsenio Farell, head of IMSS.

Martinez Manautou reported that in rural areas, family planning is practiced by approximately one million married women of fertile age (27.4 percent of the total), and their fertility rate, which used to be eight children during their reproductive years, has now dropped to six.

He said the rural family planning survey performed by IMSS has for the first time provided an adequate picture of what is happening in rural settlements of less than 2,500 residents with respect to people's ways of obtaining and using contraceptive devices, including their preferences, reasons for quitting, and the relationship of such factors to a number of socioeconomic variables.

Martinez Manautou explained that such research is practical because it provides the PNPF with more objective grounds for making operational decisions and seeking new strategies to offer the best possible family planning services to the greatest possible number of individuals belonging to the most vulnerable classes.

The program's new strategy will focus on overcoming obstacles that have been found to obstruct family planning services in rural areas that need them the most, such as the western districts--Guanajuato, Michoacan, Jalisco, Colima, and Aguascalientes, and the Pacifico Sur--Chiapas, Guerrero, and Oaxaca area.

Martinez Manautou said it would be necessary to place greater emphasis on educating men, and on giving women broader, more useful information on the

way each method works, in order to help them overcome their fear of undesirable effects.

Adolescents, on the other hand, need sex education and information to encourage them to postpone reproduction and space the births of their children.

9839

CSO: 3010/1593

CONCERN SHOWN OVER STORAGE OF RECORD HARVEST

Inflatable Warehouses for Grain

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 27 Apr 82 pp 4-A, 29-A

[Article by Carlos Canton Z.]

[Text] In an attempt to solve the serious problem of insufficient storage space for staple grains, a problem which every year causes the loss of several million tons of food, the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources (SARH) has begun a program to acquire high-capacity inflatable warehouses. Five of them are already in place.

Francisco Marino Rabago, head of SARH, and the governor of the state of Mexico, Alfredo del Mazo, visited one of these portable warehouses yesterday at the former hacienda "Dona Rosa," here in the governor's state. Each warehouse encloses a 2,000-meter area and holds up to 7,000 tons of grain.

Merino Rabago expressed concern over the shortage of warehouse space, especially this year when the country is getting ready to bring in a record harvest of 30 million tons of the 10 basic crops, including corn, beans, wheat, rice, and soybeans.

The federal government will study the purchase of inflatable warehouses as a possible solution to the storage problem. Last year in Tamaulipas, unprecedented sorghum yields were stored only with considerable difficulty.

Merino said President Lopez Portillo is concerned that the country's farmers and government officials encounter no obstacles in preserving this year's crops.

The inflatable warehouses, manufactured in Brazil using Japanese technology, were acquired by Warehouses, Services and Extraordinary Transportation for Agricultural Communities [ASTECA], an organization set up by the chief executive under the control of SARH

One of ASTECA's purposes is to "solve the urgent problems created by the lack of storage space."

Rafael Ruanova Zarate, director of ASTECA, yesterday explained to Merino Rabago, del Mazo, and Jose Antonio Ugarte, the president's chief advisor, the features of these recently-acquired warehouses.

Warehouse Characteristics

The units cost approximately 6 million pesos. They are made of heavy-duty, flame-proof canvas designed to stand up under inclement weather conditions. They can be installed in 20 minutes, and can be moved on a moment's notice. The units operate by means of one electric and another diesel motor, and maintain a constant temperature to preserve the grain. Each has an approximate useful life of 20 years, and is protected against all types of rodents.

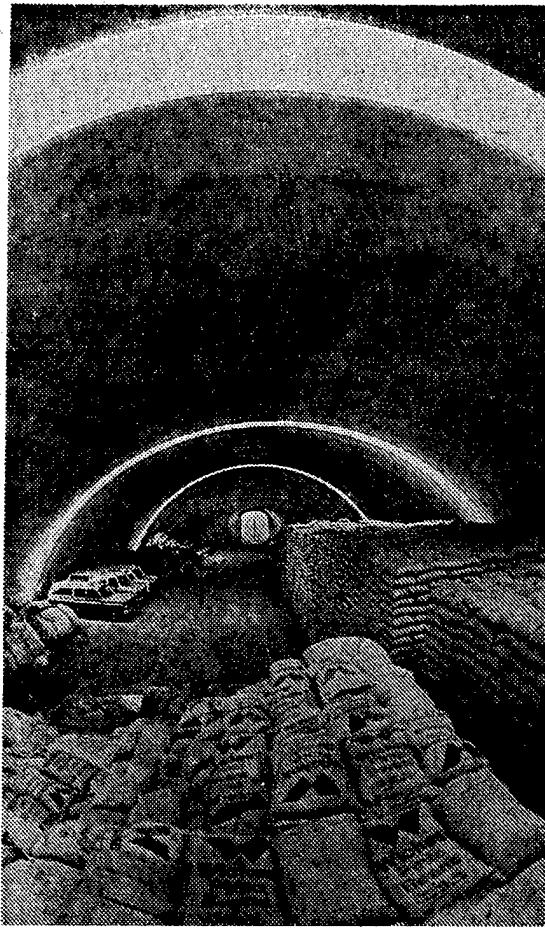
Ruanova Zarate explained that the cost per ton-year of inflatable warehouses is the lowest of any system so far known

Imported Beans

At the warehouse we visited yesterday, thousands of tons of pinto beans imported from the United States were in evidence, in spite of the fact that SARH reports Mexico is self-sufficient in production of pintos as of last year.

Ruanova Zarate also showed visiting officials the storage system used around the country in recent months. Large mounds of grain staples are heaped on the ground and covered with plastic tarps. Old tires are then placed over the piles to protect them against the wind. Sixteen-inch diameter ducts of reinforced rubber are placed between the grain and the tarp in order to permit air to enter. Other ducts placed between the grain and ground level pull air in, while air extractors expel it.

Twenty grain-storage facilities around the country are equipped with this imperfect system.



The interior of an inflatable warehouse for storing corn, beans, and other grains. Several similar units have been acquired by the Secretariat of Agriculture and Water Resources.

Grain Storage Facility Statistics

Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 28 Apr 82 p 32-A

[Text] The combined storage capacity of CONASUPO [Government Basic Commodities Company] and National Warehouse Depositories [ANDSA] totals 13.9 million tons. Private enterprise has an additional 11.2 million tons of storage space.

The two government agencies made their storage capacities known in response to public worry by the secretary of agriculture, Francisco Merino Rabago, that record production of the 10 basic grain staples for this year would reach 30 million tons, and available storage space would be inadequate.

ANDSA alone has a current capacity of 6.3 million tons, and CONASUPO's warehouses and storage cellars have a capacity of 7.6 million tons. Nevertheless,

said officials of these agencies, rotation of grain supplies to distribution centers and outlets (mainly CONASUPO's) would permit a considerable increase in storage capacity at any given time.

For example, CONASUPO uses rotation to increase its storage capacity to as much as 12.5 million tons by distributing grain to receiving stations and dispensaries.

Until October of 1981, CONASUPO had a storage capacity of 3.2 million tons, but has increased that capacity by 4.1 million tons following inauguration of Boruconsa's silos and warehouses, giving a current total of 7.6 million tons.

This increase in CONASUPO's available space is a result of the Emergency Program to Prepare Storage Centers [PEACA].

CONASUPO's storage capacity includes that of its affiliates, such as the CONASUPO Distributorship [DC] and the Agency to Promote Small Business [IMPESCA].

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CSO: 3010/1953

COUNTRY SECTION

MEXICO

BRIEFS

AGRICULTURAL WORKERS' PAY STATISTICS--Due to a lack of unity and failure to organize, 80 percent of the agricultural workers in this entity earn less than national minimum wage, said Victor Ramirez del Angel, state leader of the National Union of Agricultural Workers [UNTA], an agency of the Workers Socialist Party [PST]. He added that the same proportion of the work force is exploited by employers and remains cut off from services and benefits mandated by labor legislation. Ramirez del Angel emphasized that given this situation, UNTA will attempt to organize as many of these rural wage earners as possible, while at the same time pushing to reestablish communications between peasants and the appropriate authorities, in order to help solve their problems. He further said that at the present time, the "bridge" between the government and rural people is in disrepair due to the actions of bad bureaucrats, and that this situation can only benefit the traditional bosses. [Text] [Mexico City EL DIA 16 Apr 82 'Metropoli' Suppl. p 9] 9839

CSO: 3010/1593

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